

# An Experience in Diversity

Welcome to Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness. Formed by the Madison River as it cuts through the Madison Range, the Bear Trap offers raging rapids, solitude, outstanding recreational opportunities and magnificent scenery. The 1,500-foot cliffs that border the canyon serve as a scenic backdrop for wilderness activities such as white-water floating, hiking, bankside or float fishing, studying nature and just enjoying the canyon's beauty and grandeur.

Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness, a unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, is the first component of the National Wilderness Preservation System to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Its 6,000 acres are being managed to protect its solitude and natural values while allowing for primitive forms of recreation.

Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness is one of four units of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The four units and addresses where you can get additional information are listed below:

## BEAR TRAP CANYON

Butte District Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.D. Box 3388  
Butte, MT 59702  
(406) 494-5059

Oillon Resource Area  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.D. Box 1048  
Dillon, MT 59725  
(406) 683-2337

## SPANISH PEAKS

Bozeman Ranger District  
Gallatin National Forest  
601 Nikles  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 587-5271, Ext. 4261

## TAYLOR HILGARD

Madison Ranger District  
Beaverhead National Forest  
Rt. 2, Box 5  
Ennis, MT 59729  
(406) 682-4253

## MONUMENT MOUNTAINS

Hebgen Lake Ranger District  
Gallatin National Forest  
P.D. Box 520  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
(406) 646-7369

# QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BEAR TRAP???

## How's the fishing?

The Madison River offers some of the finest trout fishing in Montana. However, the water in the Bear Trap Canyon runs directly out of Ennis Lake where the shallow water of the lake is warmed by the summer sun. In late summer and fall the warmer water is not ideal for trout and they tend to move further downstream. The BLM in conjunction with the Montana Power Company; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and interested conservation groups is trying to find a solution to this problem.

## How do I get into the Bear Trap?

Floaters use the south entrance near Montana Power's electric generating plant. Other visitors use the north entrance where plenty of parking is available. The hiking trail at the south entrance near the power plant has been closed. Because it is restricted by the steep canyon walls, the trail passes through the powerplant's emergency overflow chute. In case of emergency electrical generator shutdown, a torrent of water can be released down the chute with little warning. Due to this safety hazard, possible dangers around the generating facilities, and a need to avoid interference with Montana Power Company operations; visitors should not use this portion of the trail.

## What other dangers are found in the Bear Trap Canyon?

The rapids in the narrow canyon can be very dangerous depending on water levels. The most famous, the Kitchen Sink Rapids, has claimed the lives of several floaters. All floaters should check flow conditions before attempting to float the Bear Trap.

There are also dangers along the shores. Keep an eye out for rattlesnakes and poison ivy.

## Why can't I bring pets or pack animals into the Bear Trap?

There just isn't enough room in the narrow Bear Trap Canyon for large animals. The forage is limited and easily damaged. In addition grazing animals brought in from other areas can introduce nonnative plants and noxious weeds.

## How can I keep the Bear Trap the beautiful place it is?

Since the Bear Trap is primarily a day use area, please plan to camp overnight in camp areas north of the canyon. These areas provide water, tables, barbecues, and toilets. Visitors who want to camp in the wilderness should choose other larger areas of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. This brochure also lists other ways to protect the wilderness.

## What is the visitor survey all about?

The BLM wants to know how you liked the Bear Trap. By gathering visitor information, the BLM can better manage the area.

# PROTECTING YOUR WILDERNESS

## W I L D E R N E S S

### Water

- Prevent pollution by keeping soap, ashes and human wastes out of the water
- Pack out, burn or bury fish entrails away from water.

### Intelligent Planning

- Select areas not heavily used
- Visit areas at little used times and during off season
- Anticipate possible emergencies and be prepared

### Leave horses, mules and pets at home

- The area is too small and fragile to permit riding or pack stock
- Pets disrupt other's solitude

### Don't spoil others experience

- Keep noise down
- Travel in small parties
- Don't litter

### Exercise caution with fire

- Use only dead and down firewood
- Scatter fire rings after use
- Limit smoking to safe areas; burn or pack out cigarette butts
- Make sure fires are dead out

### Remove human traces

- Don't bury cans and bottles
- Remove all signs of temporary structures

### No Motorized Machinery

- The use of motorized machinery is illegal in all wilderness

### Enjoy natural objects but leave them for others

- Leave cultural materials, rocks, flowers, antlers, etc.

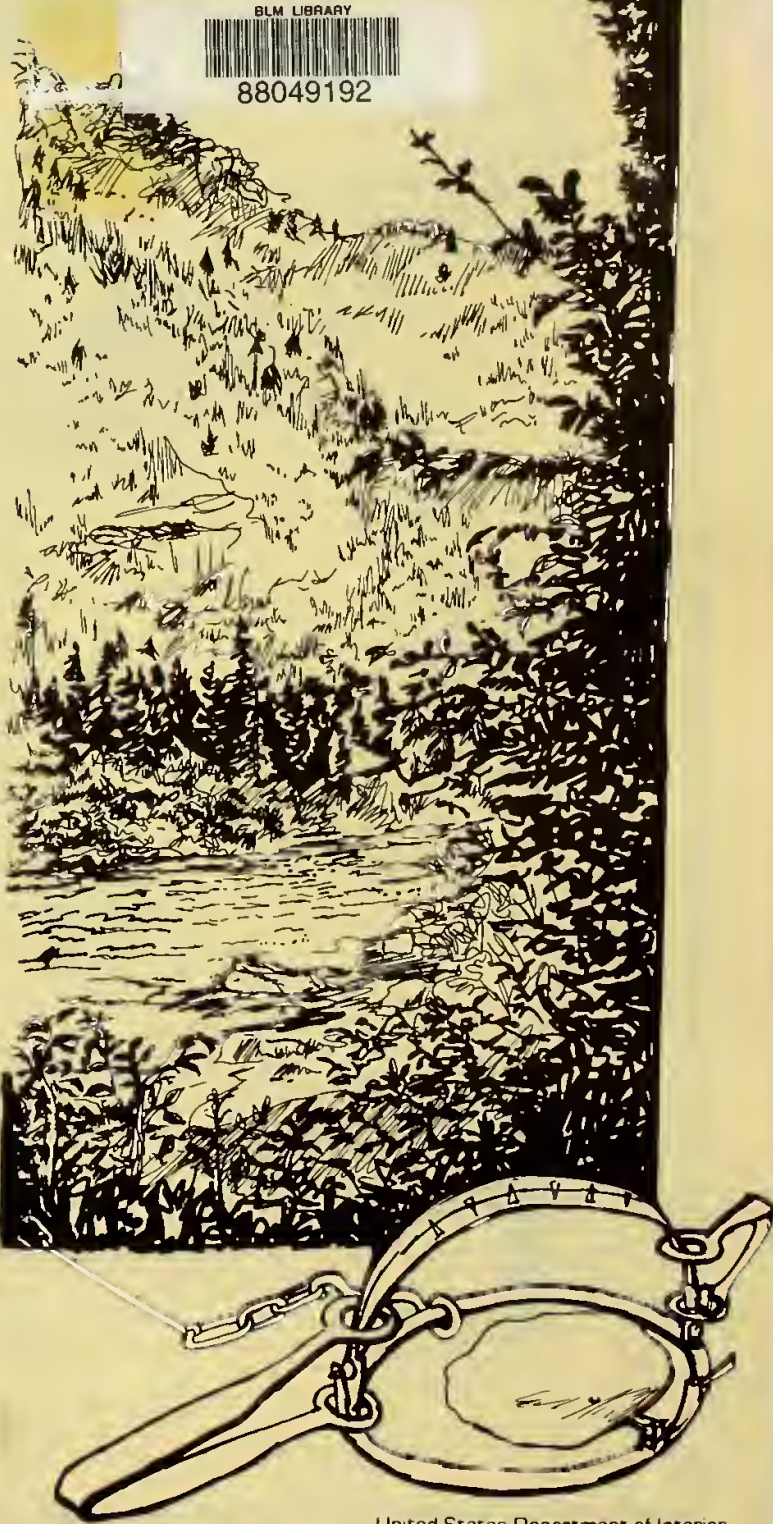
### Sanitation

- Use cat method for human waste disposal
- At least 100 ft. from water or a trail
- Dig hole 6-8" deep; remove sod in 1 piece
- After use fill hole and replace sod
- Soil bacteria will take care of decomposition

### Self-regulation

- Remember: preservation of the wilderness is up to you
- Don't cut live trees
- Don't ditch around tents
- Keep on the trail
- Avoid trampling down vegetation
- Think "No Impact"

# Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness





38' 39' 111°40' 41' 42' 43' 44' 111°45' 46' 47'

R. 1 W.

R. 1 E.

Bozeman 30 miles

Butte 63 miles  
Interstate 90, 32 miles

T. 3 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 3 S.

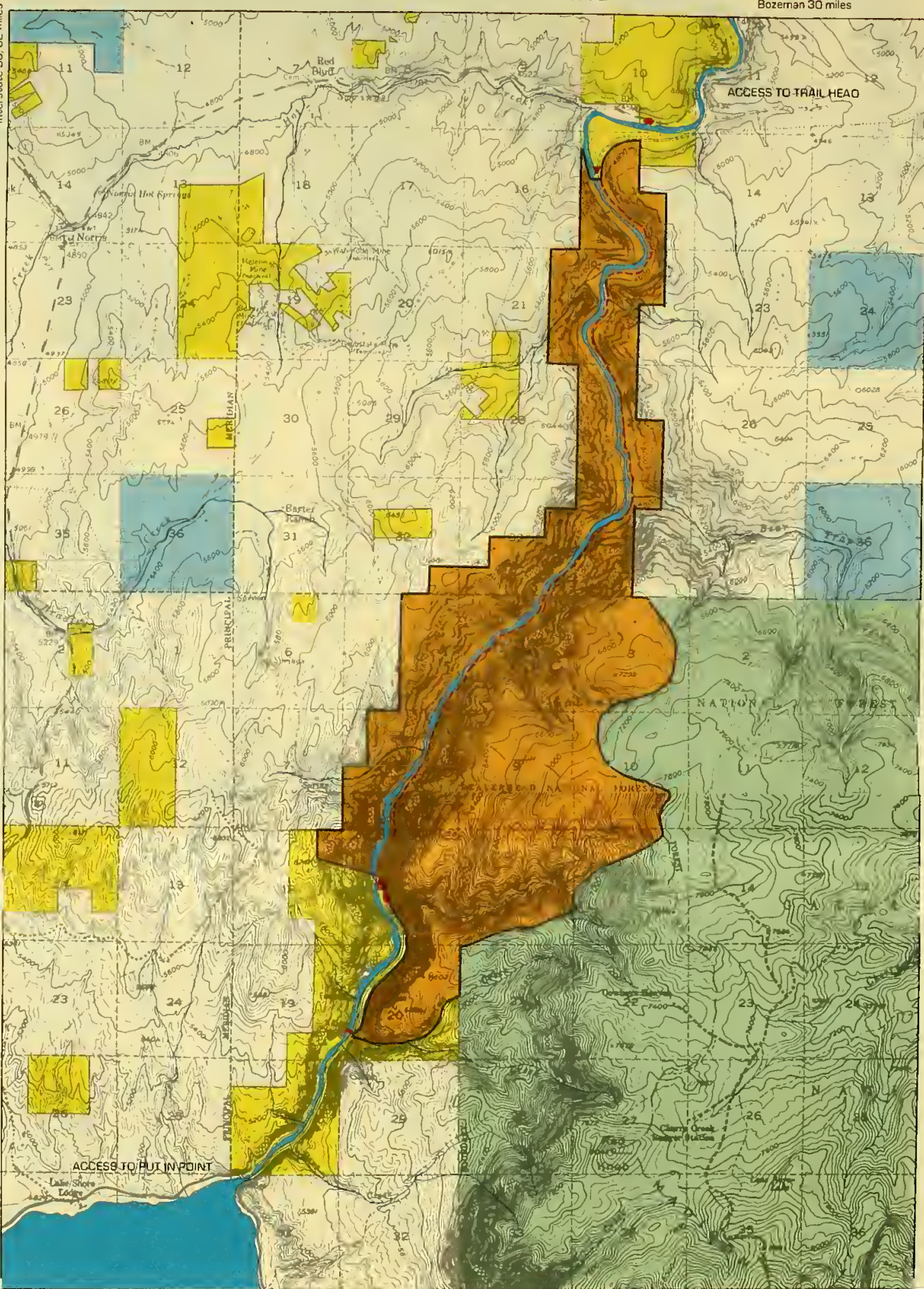
West Yellowstone 81 miles  
Ennis 10 miles

T. 4 S.

T. 4 S.

T. 4 S.

McAllister 1 1/2 miles



R. 1 W.

R. 1 E.

BEAR TRAP CANYON  
LEE METCALF WILDERNESS  
BUTTE DISTRICT  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| — Wilderness Boundary                                | — Dam                      |
| — Beartrap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness | — Power House              |
| — Public   | — Put In or Take Out Point |
| — Forest Service                                     | — Trail Head               |
| — State  | — Trail                    |
| — Private  | — Primitive Road           |
|  | — Light-duty               |
|  | — Medium-duty              |



Polyconic projection

0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 2 miles

Scale 1" to 1 Mile

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

DATUM MEAN SEA LEVEL

This map was compiled from  
Ennis and Norms Topographic Maps

38' 39' 111°40' 41' 42' 43' 44' 111°45' 46' 47'